

**Minutes**  
**KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Kerr-Tar COG Office**  
**January 23, 2020**

**Members Present**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| John Alston       | Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown |
| Wayne Aycock      | Quon Bridges            |
| David Brooks      | Walter Gardner          |
| Carolyn Faines    | Wanda Henderson         |
| Reggie Horton     | Zelodis Jay             |
| Treco Lea-Jeffers | Leo Kelly               |
| Tom Lane          | Kenneth Perry           |
| Jennifer Pierce   | Michael Williford       |
| Betty Wright      | Danny Wright            |
| Mike Felts        |                         |

**Absent Members:**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Mary Anderson      | Francine Chavis |
| Jimmy Clayton      | Sidney Dunston  |
| Kevin Easter       | Eddie Ellington |
| Fonzie Flowers     | Carroll Harris  |
| Jerry Joyner       | Dazale Kearney  |
| Philip Meador      | Ruth Nance      |
| Walter Powell      | David Smith     |
| Marsha Strawbridge | Jeff Tingen     |

**COG Staff:**

Diane Cox  
Donna Lee  
Deborah Cozart  
Susan Tucker  
Nancy Francis  
Michael Kelly  
Vincent Gilreath  
Lou Grillo

**Others:**

Jim Wrenn  
Sue Hinman  
Tim Karan  
Tommy Hester  
Darryl Moss  
Scott Hamilton  
Mike Malecek  
Roger Jackson

**Invocation**

Treasurer Walter Gardner asked Board Member Danny Wright to provide the invocation prior to dinner.

## **Call to Order**

Treasurer Gardner called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

## **Minutes**

Gardner asked for the pleasure of the Board in regards to the Minutes of November 21, 2019 meeting that had been previously emailed to all members for review.

## **Motion # 1**

Wayne Aycock made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Michael Williford seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Finance Report**

Treasurer Gardner asked Donna Lee to present the Finance Report. Donna reviewed the Finance Report, which ended December 31, 2019. Donna reviewed each fund in detail and advised the percentages expended to date.

## **Motion # 2**

Motion made by Danny Wright to approve the Finance Report as presented for report ending December 31, 2019. Wanda Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

(INSERT FINANCE REPORT HERE)

## **Budget Amendments**

Donna Lee reviewed the budget amendments ending December 31, 2019. These included the Safe Routes to School Grant in the amount of \$50,000, a reduction to MIPPA funding, an allocation for WIOA Infrastructure and two new housing grants for 2019.

## **Budget Amendments**

### **Motion # 3**

Motion made by Danny Wright to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Zelodis Jay seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

(INSERT BUDGET AMENDMENTS HERE)

## **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Diane Cox highlighted the following in her report to the Board of Directors and she asked that Board Members be sure to share this information with their respective boards:

### **Planning**

- *Focus 20/20*, the region's inaugural Economic Development Summit, will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at McGregor Hall in Henderson. The event will feature best-selling author Doug Griffiths, author of *13 Ways to Kill Your Community* and other economic leaders. To date over 150 participants have registered, and Board members are encouraged to register and attend.
- Any municipality or county interested in learning about water resources should attend the NC DEQ water resources training being held in March. For More information, please contact the Planning Department.
- The Secretary of State's office will be hosting trainings on municipal annexations in preparation for the 2020 Census. Currently, the COG is gathering interest in hopes of having a training in the Kerr-Tar Region.

### **Aging**

- Senior Games registration has begun. The games will run March 27 through May 22.
- The Family Caregiver Support Program has assisted nine local Caregivers with respite care vouchers to assist in paying for care for their loved ones. One voucher still remains, and the program has received much positive feedback.
- The next RAAC meeting will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Workforce**

- A specialized job fair and hiring event for Advanced Manufacturing is planned for April 2, 2020. Sixteen businesses are scheduled to participate and th fair is open to residents of all counties.
- Since the last Board Meeting, the WDB has met and approved the following RFP sfor Program Year 2020:
  - Adult/DW – EDSI
  - Youth EDSI
  - Youth PCC
  - Youth VGCC

## **Nomination of Vice Chairman**

Treasurer Gardner recognized Board Member Treco Lea-Jeffers, who spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Jeffers and the Committee recommended Board Member Leo Kelly of Vance County to replace Gary Plummer as Vice Chairman of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2020 fiscal year.

As this is a committee recommendation and does not require a second, Treasurer Gardner called for a vote of Approval. Kelly is approved unanimously.

## **Audit Report**

The Audit Report is postponed due to illness.

## **Golden Leaf Foundation**

Treasurer Gardner welcomed Scott Hamilton, President of the Golden Leaf Foundation, as guest speaker for the evening.

Highlights of Mr. Hamilton's presentation:

- Leaf stands for "Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation"
- Economic Advancement creates prosperity, which in turn creates jobs. Jobs then create hope, opportunity and dignity.
- Golden Leaf focuses on rural, tobacco-dependent distressed counties in North Carolina through initiatives such as:
  - The Golden Leaf Foundation open grants program
  - Economic Catalyst Program
  - Community Grant Initiative
  - Disaster Recovery Funding
- A new initiative called Golden Leaf Opportunity for Workers (GLOW) focuses on the hard to employ by working to remove barriers to employment and increase workforce participation
- Golden Leaf has provided scholarships for over 20 years
  - 660 students in Region K have received 2-year scholarships
  - 360 of those have received 4 year scholarships
- Golden Leaf funds projects that invest in communities with a strategic focus with an expectation of return on investment in the form of economic advancement.

Treasurer Gardner called for Public Announcements and Comments. As none were offered and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Patricia S. Cox, Executive Director  
Secretary to the Board of Directors